THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) During the year 1999-2000, the erstwhile schemes of Rural Development namely, the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) the Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment (TRYSEM), the Development of women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), the Supply of Improve Tool Kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), the Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and the Million Wells Schemes (MWS) were merged into a single holistic scheme called the SwarnjayantiGram SwarozgarYojana (SGSY). The merger of these schemes have substantially improved the rural development delivery system as a group approach is preferred under the new scheme compared to individual approach in the erstwhile schemes. Since the concept and design of the new scheme is different, the reach/ spread of this scheme cannot be compared with the erstwhile schemes.

There is no Single Umbrella Scheme of Rural Development. While (the erstwhile) schemes of the Employment Assurance Scheme and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana have been merged into the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana with effect from 25th September, 2001, the new scheme still has two separate streams. It is, however, too early to assess the reach of the new scheme.

New job guarantee scheme

855. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new job guarantee scheme for the benefit of persons in the hundred most undeveloped districts; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed scheme and the time-frame by when the same is to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In the Budget Speech 2002-03, the Finance Minister made an announcement for launching Jai Prakash Rozgar Guarantee Yojana to provide employment to the unemployed in the most distressed districts of the country. To prepare guidelines for the scheme and to design modalities/mechanisms for its implementation, a Task Force under Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Development has been set up.